

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – January 16, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eric Miller called the Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 7:27 pm at the Gahanna Senior Center.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Cynthia Franzmann
Windy McKenna
Luke Messinger
Eric Miller
Laurel Naegele
Vincent Tremante

Absent:

Diane Cantrell

In attendance from the City Administration was Tony Collins, Director and Troy Euton, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tremante made a **MOTION** to approve the November 7, 2007 meeting minutes; seconded by Messinger. **On roll call vote:** McKenna, Yes, Messinger, yes, Miller, Yes, Naegele, Yes, Tremante, Yes and Franzmann, Yes. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Collins added New Business a Fee Waiver Request.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS:

Messinger made a **MOTION** to approve the January 16, 2008 agenda as amended; seconded by McKenna. **On roll call vote:** Miller, yes, Naegele, yes, Tremante, Yes, Franzmann, Yes, McKenna, Yes and Messinger, Yes. **The motion carried 6 – 0.**

VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Troy Euton, Deputy Director, Mike Musser, Recreation Superintendent, Abbey Brooks, Recreation Supervisor and Shannon Clonch, Recreation Supervisor introduced themselves to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

2007-2008 Division Report

Musser gave an overview of the December monthly report and year end Recreation Division report.

Musser stated that Pool memberships increased 32%. This is the first year since the city began running the pool that it has earned a net profit. The Golf Courses new irrigation system has made remarkable improvements to the course. The Golf Course earned a net profit for the 2007 season. Membership is down; however green fees and equipment rental have shown an increase.

Musser explained the Recreation Programs show an increase in attendance and a 4% increase in revenue. OHEC has shown an 11% increase in revenue. The Senior Center had a decrease of 1% in revenue. The Senior membership drive began on December 10, 2007.

OPRA Excellence Awards

Musser explained the Department submitted three awards to OPRA. A Wetland Brochure received second place in Print Marketing, Stargazers and Storytellers program received third place in Family Event Programming and Meet the Candidate night received honorable mention for Teen Programming and Events.

Service to the Community Awards

Musser stated that the Service to the Community Awards will be on August 15, 2008 at Friendship Park. The nomination forms will be put in the paper next month. The Board will be sent the nomination forms and category information.

Collins stated the awards are to recognize citizens and businesses that have advanced parks and recreation in our community. The department depends on the Parks & Recreation Board to bring forward nominations along with the nominations submitted by residents. The Parks & Recreation Board will select award winners at the May board meeting. Collins also stated the Landscape Board is creating awards that will be presented at the Service to the Community Awards event.

Golf Course fees

Musser stated that the Golf Course fees will not change for the 2008 season. However, the department would like the board to consider adding a Midday Membership for the cost of \$255 for residents and \$295 for nonresidents, the same price as senior memberships. The Midday Membership would allow unlimited rounds between 9 am and 3 pm on weekdays and would not be valid on holidays. We are adding this membership in order to increase midday play.

Collins explained the Parks & Recreation Board needs to approve any changes to the department's fee structure; once approved the fees will be submitted to City Council.

Messinger made a **MOTION** that the Board approve the current Golf Course fees with the addition of the Midday Membership as proposed; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Naegele, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Franzmann, Yes, McKenna, Yes, Messinger, Yes and Miller, Yes. **The motion carried 6 – 0.**

Fee Waiver Request

Collins stated that Boy Scout Pack 778 requests a fee reduction or waiver for the use of the Golf Course Clubhouse for an overnight.

After much discussion the board would like an opinion from the City Attorney and the Insurance Company regarding organizations staying overnight in the facility.

Tremante made a **MOTION** that the Board approve the fee waiver for Boy Scout Pack 778 for the use of the Golf Course Clubhouse; seconded by Messinger. **On roll call vote:** Tremante, No, Naegele, No, Miller, No, Messinger, No, McKenna, No and Franzmann, No. **Motion carried 6- 0 and was denied based upon the fee rate for nonprofit organizations.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

None

DIRECTORS REPORT

Collins stated that the Development Department and the Department of Parks & Recreation are a Council Committee this year. The Committee Chair is Councilman Shane Ewald, Councilwoman Beryl Anderson, and Councilman Tom Kneeland is also on the committee.

Collins explained that the Facilities and Parks department will present their department year end review at future Board meetings.

Collins explained the Departments appropriations for the 2008 budget. The budgets for the Parks Division and the Facilities Division have been separated and given individual budgets; this will assist in better tracking of expenses. Overall this is the lowest budget submitted and approved for the department. The department makes up 7% of the general fund. The Departments Capital funds are lower. However, the \$4 million Creekside Park, the \$2.5 million Hannah bond project and \$500,000 trail improvement will be in progress this year.

Collins shared with the Board members an updated Table of Organization for the Department of Parks & Recreation.

Collins stated the Department applied for and received a \$29,000 Safe Routes to School Grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation. The goal within the bikeway plan is to help develop path and assistance expansions to schools for walking pedestrian and bike riding. The Bikeway Advisory Committee will partner with the Gahanna schools to create plans for four schools; Lincoln Elementary, Chapelfield Elementary, Highpoint Elementary and Jefferson Elementary. Once the plans are created the Committee can apply for additional grants to initiate the plans.

COMMITTEES' REPORT

Bikeway Advisory Committee

Collins stated the Bikeway Advisory Committee is meeting on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 5:30 at City Hall. The first draft of the Big Walnut trail layout was received from Floyd Brown Group. The Bikeway Committee dedicated \$50,000 of the fund to create a concept plan for the trail. The committee will provide input on the draft plan at the January meeting.

Community Improvement Corporation (C.I.C.)

Nothing at the time

Creekside Development Team

No longer meeting

Natural Resource Advisory Committee

Nothing at this time

Dog Park Advisory Committee

Euton explained that the first large paddock area is completed, small and large dog area completed, all the fencing for the Phase I portion is complete. The agility equipment from Hannah has been repaired and repainted and will be installed once there is better weather. The trail bed has been laid; however due to the weather the seeding did not get done. The Department is currently working on the Phase II portion of the plans.

Tremante questioned the wetland on the east side of Pizzurro and the Natural Resource Committee also recommended that the dog access to the creek be limited. Euton stated on the east side of the park some grading of the softball fields have been completed, the area is currently an off leash area and creek access needs to be discussed.

Foundation Committee

Nothing at this time

Veterans Memorial Committee

Nothing at this time

POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT:

Nothing at this time

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Tremante made a **MOTION** to adjourn.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2008

Eric Miller, Chair